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# CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

# Weekly



# Bulletin

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## HIGH LIGHTS FROM BIENNIAL REPORT.

The following are extracts from the report of the Secretary of the California State Board of Health as published in the Twenty-ninth Biennial Report of the Board:

### BOTULISM.

Limited outbreaks of botulism occur in California occasionally. During the last biennial period 27 cases with 11 deaths have been reported. In 1925 there were but five such cases, four of which resulted fatally. Under the operation of the new cannery inspection division of the California State Board of Health which is charged with the enforcement of the board's regulations for the commercial canning of various products, chiefly vegetables, all danger of botulism from commercially canned products should be eliminated. It is a significant fact that most cases of botulism have occurred through the use of home canned products; the housewife has not the equipment nor the inclination to subject home canned products to a sufficient degree of heat for an adequate length of time to insure the quality of the home canned product. The use of pressure cookers eliminates any danger from home canned vegetables, but unless such apparatus is used there is grave danger in eating home canned products. The division of cannery inspection has devoted its energies to the enforcement of the regulations for the proper cooking, commercially, of olives, spinach, squash, string beans, asparagus and certain kinds of fish. It is possible, now, to determine at what temperature and for what duration of time nearly every pack of commercially canned California products have

been held. Reference to the code numbers on the cans provides the key to the entire history of the canning processes used upon the product involved. The enforcement of the board's regulations for the sanitation of canned products, it can be readily seen, is of prime importance in maintaining a high grade of commercial goods which are distributed all over the world. The enforcement of these regulations guarantees the quality of California's commercially canned products and makes impossible the production of disease through the use of canned goods. This activity, which was inaugurated in the fall of 1925, is carried on at no expense to the state, as the funds for this work are provided by the canners themselves through an enabling act of the last legislature.

### CANNERY INSPECTION.

Probably the most outstanding feature of public health work done by the State Board of Health was the establishment of the cannery inspection division.

The legislature of 1925 adopted what is known as "The Cannery Inspection Act," which requires the State Board of Health to license all canneries which meet the standards adopted by the board in reference to the sterilization of all olives and vegetable products cooked under pressure, with the exception of tomatoes and tomato products.

Following the passage of this act the sardine and tuna packers of the state requested the board to inspect their plants. The division of cannery inspection is financed by the packers and consists of a chief cannery inspector, clerk and thir-

teen inspectors. An annual assessment on a per case basis of all products requiring inspection is paid by the canners.

The research work necessary for the promulgation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Health under which this inspection operates was prepared by the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research of the University of California, under the direction of Dr. Karl F. Meyer.

The object of the cannery inspection is twofold, first, to protect the public health from food poisoning due to insufficient sterilization of food products; and second, to assure a high standard, wholesome, edible product.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During the past biennium the activities of the board's sanitary engineers have increased greatly. The work of the supervision of local sewage disposal plants and public water supplies has grown considerably. With no increase in the personnel of the sanitary engineering staff the work has almost doubled. Many very important problems, such as that which has to do with the disposal of sewage from the thickly populated districts of southern California, chiefly Los Angeles, have been undertaken. One of these problems has required more than two months of intensive work relating to a study of an application for permission to deposit sewage in the Pacific Ocean. It is a significant fact that twelve years ago there were but three or four methods used in the treatment of sewage. At the present time there are more than twenty-six varieties of such treatment in use, each of which is specially designed to take advantage of certain unique local peculiarities. Stream pollution in California has been lessened greatly and the prospects are excellent for the ultimate elimination of sewage from California streams, or at least for the application of necessary treatment which will definitely prevent the contamination of such streams. The number of treatment plants for water supplies has grown continuously, particularly for such supplies as find their sources in surface and other dangerous waters.

The enforcement of regulations pertaining to the sanitation of swimming pools has involved a large amount of work during the biennial period. During the past two years there has been a marked improvement in the sanitary design of swimming pools. This has a direct bearing upon the transmission of many communicable diseases and is of first importance from the standpoint of sanitation. New standards for the proper disposal

of sewage at beaches and other watering places where aquatic recreation is enjoyed have been formulated and enforced.

Regulations for the sanitation of oyster beds have also been adopted and certificates are given to the owners of oyster beds which conform to the regulations.

The sanitary engineers of the board have been able to save large sums of money to California cities and the technical assistance rendered by these engineers is appreciated fully by the officials of the smaller cities, particularly.

#### THE HYGIENIC LABORATORY.

The certification of public health biological laboratories has accomplished considerable in stimulating the establishment of adequate laboratory service in communities which heretofore have necessarily depended upon the state for the performance of routine biological examinations. Laboratories which conform to the standards set are provided with certificates, which are effective for the calendar year only. The annual inspection of such laboratories, alone, is valuable in the maintenance of high standards. This is of importance in the maintenance of public health, for diagnosis of communicable disease depends, to a very great extent, upon accuracy of diagnosis, which can be obtained only through the use of sound laboratory procedure. The State Hygienic Laboratory makes examinations only for cities and counties that are unable to finance the installation and maintenance of laboratory service, and in handling examinations for which the smaller laboratories are not equipped. The state laboratory is available at all times to perform routine service for the rural districts and for small cities where no laboratory service may be available.

#### GENERAL SANITATION.

The staff of the division of sanitary inspection has accomplished a large amount of work in the improvement of general sanitary conditions throughout the state. The sanitation of automobile camps and the inspection of wayside eating places, summer resorts and similar places, has provided an essential service rendered in behalf of the traveling public. The improvement of sanitary conditions in automobile camps during the past three years is noteworthy. This improvement is recognized by automobile clubs, automobile camp owners' associations, local civic organizations and other state health departments, all of which have expressed their commendation of this work. A large number of insanitary camps have been closed permanently, but the most

important accomplishment of the board's sanitary inspectors lies in the improvements that have been instituted as a result of the advice and assistance given by the inspectors.

The board's entire staff of sanitary inspectors was assigned to Los Angeles during the plague emergency existing there during 1924 and 1925. The diversion of this corps of trained men to Los Angeles, where they were engaged in training local men in the details of sanitary inspection as related to the control of rodents, was of great importance in bringing the plague outbreak under control. Similar work was carried on in San Luis Obispo County and other portions of the state where surveys of plague in rodents were carried on, through the assistance of county horticultural commissioners, health officers and other officials. It is believed that the general good sanitary conditions in California at the present time are due in no small measure to the work of the state's sanitary inspectors.

#### CHILD HYGIENE.

The report of the Bureau of Child Hygiene indicates the importance of safeguarding the health of the preschool child, in discovering physical defects in the child of this age period, and in securing the removal of such defects before the child enters school. Millions of dollars are being spent in California upon elementary education. If children are not physically fit to receive this education the waste of money becomes enormous. From the standpoint of economy, alone, nothing can be of greater importance than the provision of every facility that makes for the health of the child who is about to enter school. To be sure, it is of great importance that after entering school every safeguard for the protection of the child's health be provided, but if adequate provision is made for maintaining the health of the child of preschool age there is every reason to believe that the health of the child after he enters school may be maintained much more easily and at far less expense.

The service that the bureau has rendered in providing conferences for the physical examination of infants and young children is noteworthy. The instruction given to mothers at these conferences is of the utmost importance. Through the provisions of the Federal Maternal and Infant Welfare Act the scope of work undertaken by the Bureau of Child Hygiene has been widened greatly. Through the activities of the bureau many public health nurses have been added to the personnel of local health departments.

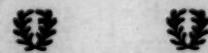
In compliance with the duties imposed upon the bureau through the enactment of legislation at the last session of the legislature, the licensing of maternity homes, following their inspection, has been undertaken. Licenses have been given to 173 such institutions; this work is about half completed and it is believed that the year 1926 will find the entire field covered, with licenses granted to all maternity homes that comply with the regulations of the board.

#### FOODS AND DRUGS.

The Bureau of Foods and Drugs is responsible, to a large extent, for the quality of food supplies purchased by the state for consumption in state hospitals and other institutions. The state demands that its wards be given good quality of foodstuffs, and requires of vendors that they comply exactly with the contract arrangements by which foodstuffs of first quality are delivered. All deliveries of such products are checked by the Bureau of Foods and Drugs in order to determine that these conditions have been complied with.

The work of the bureau has been concerned more, during recent years, with providing a service that would improve the quality of food products at the source of manufacture. For many years a campaign of education was conducted, by means of which many small dealers, whose displayed products did not comply with the pure food laws, were summoned before the board for hearing. It is the present policy that this campaign of education has served its purpose and that hereafter the efforts of the board are more wisely directed toward the improvement of food supplies at their sources. The extent and variety of the work undertaken by the bureau may be understood by reading the detailed report submitted in this volume.

(Continued in next issue.)



#### MORBIDITY.\*

##### Diphtheria.

199 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda 2, Berkeley 2, Oakland 10, Chico 1, El Cerrito 1, Fresno County 2, Los Angeles County 38, Alhambra 6, Azusa 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 4, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 78, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 1, Redondo Beach 2, Whittier 1, South Gate 7, Mendocino County 1, Merced County 1, Salinas 1, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 3, Corona 1, Sacramento 2, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 12, Redwood City 1, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 2, Santa Clara County 3, San Jose 1, Yuba City 1, Corning 1, Tulare County 3.

\*From reports received on November 29th and 30th, for week ending November 27th.

**Measles.**

552 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda 32, Albany 9, Berkeley 35, Hayward 9, Oakland 174, Piedmont 12, Butte County 2, Chico 1, Calaveras County 1, Colusa 5, Concord 2, El Cerrito 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 5, Los Angeles County 1, Alhambra 1, Culver City 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 16, Los Angeles 9, Pasadena 1, Los Banos 2, Monterey County 5, Salinas 6, Orange County 18, Sacramento 18, San Bernardino County 9, Colton 1, Redlands 6, San Bernardino 36, San Joaquin County 9, Manteca 1, Stockton 60, Tracy 2, Santa Clara County 19, Palo Alto 5, Sunnyvale 1, Vallejo 9, Stanislaus County 10, Modesto 2, Tehama County 7, Red Bluff 6.

**Scarlet Fever.**

238 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 2, Berkeley 5, Hayward 1, Oakland 12, Piedmont 2, Chico 1, Humboldt County 1, Calexico 1, Los Angeles County 26, Alhambra 4, Azusa 2, Burbank 3, Compton 1, El Segundo 8, Glendale 4, Glendora 1, LaVerne 1, Long Beach 12, Los Angeles 42, Pasadena 6, Redondo 2, San Fernando 1, Whittier 1, South Gate 3, Maywood 2, Sausalito 1, Ukiah 1, Orange County 7, Anaheim 2, Santa Ana 4, Riverside County 1, Banning 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, Colton 1, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 8, San Francisco 14, Stockton 3, Tracy 3, Paso Robles 5, Redwood City 2, San Bruno 2, Santa Barbara County 4, Santa Clara County 11,

Los Gatos 1, San Jose 10, Santa Clara 2, Santa Cruz County 2, Stanislaus County 2, Modesto 1, Turlock 1, Tulare County 1.

**Smallpox.**

9 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Oakland 2, Colusa County 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, Turlock 1.

**Typhoid Fever.**

10 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Orange County 1, San Bernardino County 2, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 4, Modesto 1, California 1.

**Whooping Cough.**

52 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 7, Oakland 7, Piedmont 2, Los Angeles County 9, Compton 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 5, Pasadena 2, San Diego 4, San Francisco 3, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Cruz County 8, Watsonville 2.

**Poliomyelitis.**

Two cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1.

**Meningitis (Epidemic).**

Two cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, both from Los Angeles.

**Encephalitis (Epidemic).**

Oakland reported one case of epidemic encephalitis.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.**

Disease	1926			Reports for week ending Nov. 27 received by Nov. 30	1925			Reports for week ending Nov. 28 received by Dec. 1		
	Week ending				Week ending					
	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20		Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21			
Anthrax-----	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Botulism-----	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0		
Chickenpox-----	216	256	218	273	210	173	246	200		
Diphtheria-----	161	167	197	199	135	127	141	107		
Dysentery (Bacillary)---	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	0		
Encephalitis (Epidemic)-----	1	1	0	1	2	3	0	3		
Gonococcus Infection-----	133	85	115	64	134	81	239	106		
Influenza-----	13	21	17	18	6	20	18	16		
Jaundice (Epidemic)-----	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Leprosy-----	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		
Malaria-----	2	3	2	2	2	1	0	2		
Measles-----	655	655	846	552	13	13	17	9		
Meningitis (Epidemic)-----	5	1	0	2	0	2	3	0		
Mumps-----	174	139	210	188	161	203	179	191		
Paratyphoid Fever-----	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1		
Pneumonia (Lobar)-----	25	36	58	45	44	63	35	33		
Poliomyelitis-----	5	2	6	2	11	17	13	9		
Rabies (Animal)-----	10	13	10	7	2	3	5	2		
Rabies (Human)-----	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever-----	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Scarlet Fever-----	221	293	308	238	102	124	170	150		
Smallpox-----	13	46	15	9	32	66	41	46		
Syphilis-----	207	84	120	67	212	105	200	94		
Tetanus-----	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	1		
Trachoma-----	2	4	15	4	4	3	17	2		
Trichinosis-----	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Tuberculosis-----	213	165	173	191	183	166	198	117		
Typhoid Fever-----	18	19	14	10	16	14	17	16		
Typhus Fever-----	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Whooping Cough-----	71	79	103	52	71	56	30	40		
Totals-----	2146	2074	2428	1926	1343	1248	1572	1145		